development assistance to India and banned military exports; The Netherlands has suspended macro economic aid but has stated that ongoing projects will remain unaffected; Sweden has terminated Development Assistance Programmes of US $ 118 million for the year 1997 to 1999 but has stated that ongoing activities in health and education would not be affected; Norway has terminated all aid excluding aid and assistance for poverty alleviation programmes; and, Denmark has frozen its Overseas Development Assistance Programmes to current levels. Germany, France, the UK and Italy have not imposed any economic restrictions against India.

(b) Government is constantly assessing and continuously monitoring the impact of the restrictive economic measures on the Indian economy as announced by various countries. Government is prepared to take all steps necessary to safeguard our economic and national interests.

(c) Yes, Sir. Government are aware of the partial lifting by the US of some economic measures against Pakistan including its decision to work towards permitting IMF support to Pakistan. Government has supported economic assistance to Pakistan and has consistently voted in favour of such assistance in the World Bank and other multilateral fora. Government does not agree with a selective and discriminatory approach in these matters.

(d) Government having harmonised India's national imperatives and security obligations and desirous of continuing to cooperate with the international community is now engaged in discussions with key interlocutors on a range of issues, including the CTBT. Government is prepared to bring these discussions to a successful conclusion so that the entry into force of the CTBT is not delayed beyond September 1999. Government expects that other countries, as indicated in Article XIV of the CTBT, will adhere to the Treaty without conditions.

(e) Government have seen reports of the statement made by the Chief Minister of West Bengal concerning his views on the CTBT.

Nature of diplomatic status to Dalai Lama

1325. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the precise nature of diplomatic status enjoyed in our country by Dalai Lama;

(b) whether any country, with which India has diplomatic relations has objected to any special status accorded to Dalai Lama; and

(c) whether any foreign Government has requested his extradition from India on named or unnamed charges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Dalai Lama is in India as a revered religious and spiritual personage.

(b) and (c) No such issues have been raised with Government.

Over staffing of Indian High Commission in London

1326. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR: Will the MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian High Commission in London is heavily over staffed;

(b) if so, the existing number of staff (with categories) and the annual expenditure incurred by Government on their salaries and perks etc;

(c) whether Government have considered the desirability of reviewing the positions to scale down the staff according to the requirements in order to curtail the infructuous expenditure; and